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Show Me Agriculture

TEACHER PAGE

USING SHOW ME AGRICULTURE

In observance of Black History Month, the Missouri Department of Agriculture is pleased to present another issue of Show Me Agriculture. This publication is designed for use in fourth grade classes in the state of Missouri. **Show Me Agriculture** provides up-to-date as well as historic insights about Missouri agriculture. This issue focuses on Missouri's horse industry. **Show Me Agriculture** is prepared and classroom tested by Missouri educators and is published quarterly. We hope that you will find this issue both useful and unique.

Tom Bass, Page 1. Goals: 1.10, 4.2, 4.3; CA3; SS2.

The story of Tom Bass is often overlooked in Missouri history. Tom's life provides an excellent example of a Missourian who rose from slavery to become very successful. Those who have researched Tom's story may question accuracy on such things as his birth date. Since Tom was born a slave, it appears, just as with George Washington Carver, that an exact birth date was not recorded. We have used 1859 as his birth year because that is the date on his grave marker. There does appear to be some evidence that the birth year may have been a bit earlier than that. Also, we did not include in this discussion for fourth graders, mention of Tom's father. But it is well established that Tom's father was William Bass, son of slave owner, Eli Bass. There are two books on Tom Bass that you might refer to:

- Wilkerson, J. L. "From Slave to World-Class Horseman: Tom Bass. Acorn Books, Kansas City. 1999.

(This book is fine for upper level elementary readers)

- Downey, Bill. "Tom Bass, Black Horseman". 1975 Out of Print but reprints are available from the Audrain (MO) County Historical Society. (This book is for high school and above readers)

There are also numerous web sites that provide supplemental information about Tom Bass. Most, however, appear to rely on the Downey book. In addition, there are also opportunities for Tom Bass field trips. The Audrain County Historical Society in Mexico, MO, has an excellent display of Tom Bass items along with many a lot of other Saddlehorse memorabilia. The American Royal Museum in Kansas City displays information about Tom Bass. There students will also learn about the horses and livestock of Missouri.

In the story about Tom Bass, students learn that Tom was the first African American to ride and exhibit horses at well-known shows. The Civil War had been over for many years, but former slaves found that being free did not necessarily mean "equal." In the late 1800's and well into the 1900's there was great prejudice toward former slaves and people of different races.

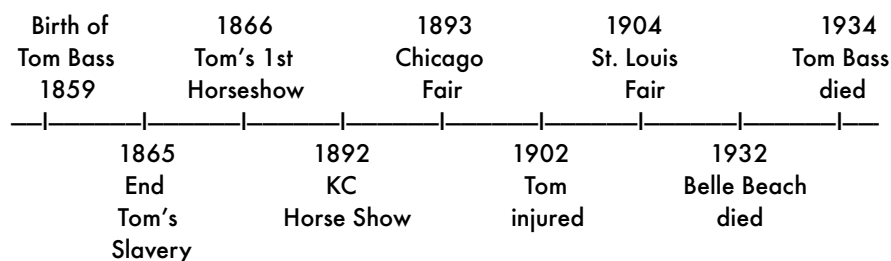
Interviewing a Missouri Historical Figure Page 4. Goals: 1.2, 1.5, 1.4, 4.2, 4.3; CA3; SS2; SS6.

In this assignment students combine the knowledge they gained about Tom Bass and the previous knowledge they may have had about the 30 years following the Civil War. Working cooperatively in small groups, have students develop appropriate interview questions that they might have asked Tom Bass about his early horse show experiences. These questions should help them to learn about how Tom Bass might have behaved or felt. (Teachers may need to review this time period in history before students start the assignment.)

Tom Bass Time Line, Page 4. Goals: 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.8; 2.3, 2.6; CA6; SS2; SS6.

Here are the answers to the Time Line:

1. Tom Bass was born in 1859
2. Tom became free at the end of the Civil War in 1865
3. Tom attended his first horse show in 1866
4. The horse show that became the American Royal began in 1892
5. Tom showed the Chicago World's Fair champion in 1893
6. Tom was injured by a falling horse in 1902
7. Tom showed a St. Louis World's Fair winner in 1904
8. Belle Beach died in 1932
9. Tom Bass died in 1934



Hay, Page 6. Goals: 1.10, 3.4; MA1; MA3; SS4.

When one thinks about Missouri crops, the first plants that come to mind are corn, wheat, or oats. We usually tend to overlook the production of hay. In this section, students learn that Missouri is the second leading hay producing state in Missouri. This statistic, from the Missouri Department of Agriculture, does not include alfalfa. Alfalfa is typically reported separately in statistical data. It is safe to say that all Missouri horses eat hay at least part of the year.

Hay Calculations, Page 7-8. Goals: 1.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6; MA2; MA3; SS4.

- 1) 60 pound bale divided by 15 pounds per horse = 4 days
- 2) 30 days / 4 days per bale = 7 _ bales per month
- 3) Students may calculate this two ways:
 $7 \text{ _ bales per month} \times 12 \text{ months} = 90 \text{ bales per year}$
 $365 \text{ days} / 4 \text{ days per bale} = 91.25 \text{ bales per year.}$

(Note for the next five questions, answers are provided based on 90 bales per horses. Your more exact students may have used 91.25 bales which is also correct but students should be instructed to round to the nearest bale. Teachers may point out that farmers don't sell parts of a bale of hay, so the rounded answer of 90 or 91 is fine.)

- 4) 90 bales x \$4.00 each = \$360 for the year
- 5) 90 bales x \$3.00 each = \$270 for the year
- 6) 90 bales x \$2.50 each = \$225 for the year
- 7) 90 bales x 10 horses = 900 bales
- 8) 900 bales x \$3.00 = \$2,700 to feed ten horses for a year

Call or write to request the national Ag in the Classroom newsletter "NOTES." It's a great resource to find out what is going on with integrating agriculture into the classroom in all 50 states!

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Additional Resources:

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www.mofb.org/aginclass.html

Call or write for more information on:
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